

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-15 RSR-01 NIC-01 EB-11 /122 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5962

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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UNCLAS BELGRADE 1626

USIA FOR IOR/ RIM

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: US AND ISRAELI COMMANDO
RAID

. BEGIN SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV MEDIA CONTINUE TO GIVE EXTENSIVE PLAY TO
MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS SINCE ISRAELI COMMANDO RAID ON LEBANON,
BUT SINCE APRIL 15 HAVE NOT REPEATED CHARGES EMANATING FROM
ARAB AND PALESTINIAN SOURCES RE US INVOLVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. TANJUG BULLETIN APRIL 14 CARRIES M. AKESNTIJEVIC
DESPATCH DATELINED BEIRUT SAYING " IT IS FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT
THIS (RAID) IS CIA' S SETTling OF ACCOUNTS WITH PALESTINIAN
MOVEMENT OR ... MORE DIRECTLY IT IS RETALIATION FOR KHARTOUM"
STATE 70061; (BELGRADE 1601). ITEM PICKED UP BY VECERNJE NOVOSTI
APRIL 14. ARAFAT' S CHARGE, HOWEVER, THAT FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO
LEBANON MEYER MATERMINDED RAID CARRIED BORBA APRIL 14 AS AFP ITEM.
UNDER HEADLINE, " ISRAELIS IN US PLANES," APRIL 14 BORBA ALSO
FRONT- PAGES PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY VAFA CHARGE THAT 45
ISRAELI PARTICIPANTS IN LEBANESE RAID WERE EVACUATED BY US
MILITARY AIRCRAFT. STORY IS UPI ITEM DATELINED DAMASCUS.
PAGE CARRIES HSIHUA DESPATCH ACCUSING " TWO SUPERPOWERS"
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(US/ USSR NOT MENTIONED) FOR " ATROCIUS CRIME OF ISRAELI AG-
RESSORS."

3. APRIL 15 BORBA FRONT- PAGES TANJUG' S UN REPORT ON " LEBANESE
COMPLAINT TO SECURITY COUNCIL: ISRAEL IS APPLYING STATE TERROR-
ISM;" STORY STATES LEBANON " CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE LEFT
POWERLESS IN FACE OF ISRAELI- PERPTRATED ARROGANT AGRESSION
REMINISCENT OF BRUTAL STATE TERRORISM BY ADOLF HITLER."
ARTICLE SAYS IN FIRST TWO DAYS OF DEBATE, " ARAB SPEAKERS
POINTED TO US AS LEADING CULPRIT FOR AGRESSIVE AIRS PUT ON
BY ISRAEL." ALGERIAN AND SYRIAN UN REPS QUOTED (" I AM DIS-
MAYED US DOES NOT FEEL RESPONSIBLE...," " US BACKS UP ISRAELI
IN ... ACTS OF AGRESSION" BY PROVIDING MILITARY WEAPONRY...) ALONG
WITH YUGOSLAV REP WHO FOUND " UNACCEPTABLE" ANY COMPARISON OF
ISRAELI' S " GOVERNMENT RUN TERRORISM" WITH " SENSELESS
INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF TERRORISM," WHICH HE ALSO OPPOSES.
ARTICLE CLAIMS SC ATMOSPHERE IS UNEASY " DESPITE CATEGORICAL
DENIALS ... BY US OFFICIALS ... THAT ARAB PRESS ACCOUNTS OF
REPORTED CIA COMPLICITY ... ARE BASELESS." IN WEEKLY NEWS
REVIEW, APRIL 15 POLITIKA, P.2, ASKS " HOW AND WHY DID COM-
MANDOS COME TO BEIRUT?" REPLY IS: " TO ENERGETIC DENIALS BY
OFFICIAL AMERICAN REPS, VOICES FROM ARAB CIRCLES PERSIST
THAT THIS ACTION MUST HAVE HAD CERTAIN ASSISTANCE OF US
INTELLIGENCE." BORBA ALSO HEADLINES " AMERICAN REASSURANCES
TO ISRAEL," REUTERS JERUSALEM DATELINED (APR 15) ITEM
CLAIMING USG ASSURED ISRAEL THAT " ONESIDED (UN) RESOLUTION ON
LAST WEEK' S RAID" WOULD BE OPPOSED. SAME PAPER CARRIES
TANJUG' S BEIRUT STORY OF EXPLOSION OF U. S. OIL STOCKS AND
RECOUNTS IN DETAIL EFFORTS TO IMPLICATE PLO AND LATTER' S
" VIGOROUS DENIALS" AND COUNTERCHARGE THAT ISRAELIS AT WORK
AGAIN. SIMILAR STORY CARRIED BY POLITIKA, QUOTING LEBANON
RADIO AND REUTERS.
JOHNSON

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